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(54) Software copying system

(57) A software copying system which enables copyrighted software recorded in a master storage medium (1; 60) to be copied to a user's target storage medium (3; 40) in a legitimate manner. A contents identifier reading unit (2) reads out a software identifier (SIDi; DID) from the master storage medium (1; 60), while a storage medium identifier reading unit (4) reads out a storage medium identifier (IDk; Mid) from the target storage medium (3; 40). The two identifiers are then sent to a central site (5) which manages licenses for the right to copy software products. At the central site (5), a signature generating unit (6) produces a first signature (CS) from those identifiers and sends it back to the user's site, where a signature writing unit (7) writes the received signature into the target storage medium (3; 40). A signature generating/comparing unit (8) produces a second signature (CS') out of the same identifiers as those sent to the central site (5), and compares it with the first signature (CS) stored in the target storage medium (3; 40). A data copying unit (9) copies the subject software data file from the master storage medium (1; 60) to the target storage medium (3; 40), only when the first and second signatures (CS, CS') coincide with each other.

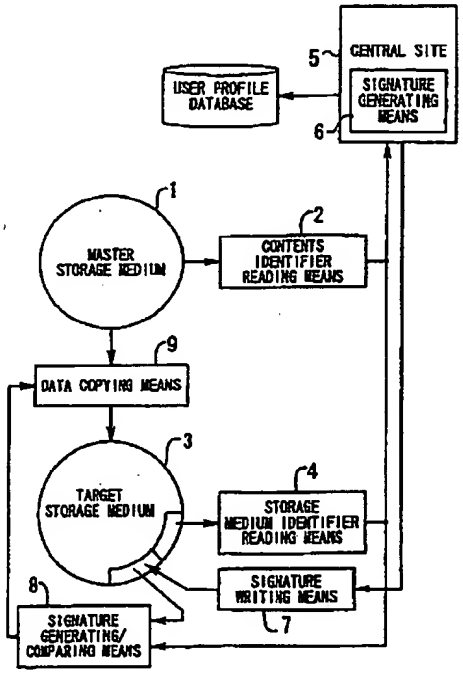

FIG. 1

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 96 11 8541

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
Y	US 4 658 093 A (HELLMAN MARTIN E) 14 April 1987 * column 4, line 46 - line 63 * * column 11, line 48 - line 61 *	1	G11B20/00
A	* figures 2,6,7 *	2-5	
Y	EP 0 302 710 A (IBM) 8 February 1989	1	
A	* column 2, line 56 - column 3, line 28 *	2-7	
A	US 5 182 770 A (LUNSFORD KELVIN ET AL) 26 January 1993 * column 1, line 54 - line 61 * * column 5, line 47 - line 52 * * column 6, line 36 - line 48 * * column 6, line 64 - column 7, line 11 * * figures 3,4 *	1-7	
A	EP 0 665 486 A (AT & T CORP) 2 August 1995 * column 6, line 29 - column 7, line 58 *	1-7	
A	"SECURE SOURCE DATA TRANSPORT IN A THREE PARTY SYSTEM" IBM TECHNICAL DISCLOSURE BULLETIN, vol. 37, no. 4B, 1 April 1994, pages 623-625, XP000451375		TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6): G11B, G06F, H04L

The present search report has been drawn up for all claims

Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE	4 November 1998	Ogor, M

CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS

X : particularly relevant if taken alone
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